

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the collective production of microlenses at the end of a set of aligned optical fibres, characterised in that it comprises a step of heating the end face of the end of all the fibres by means of an electric arc, the end face of the ends of the fibres terminating short ~~being situated on this side~~ of a line of the hottest points of the electric arc and at a distance [[d]] from this line in order to round all the fibre ends homogeneously and simultaneously to obtain all the microlenses.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for the collective production of microlenses according to Claim 1, characterised in that the distance between the front face of the ends of the optical fibres and the line of the hottest points is between 850 micrometres and 950 micrometres.

3. (Previously Presented) A method for the collective production of microlenses according to Claim 1, characterised in that the set of optical fibres consists of a ribbon.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for the collective production of microlenses according to Claim 3, characterised in that the ribbon comprises monomode fibres whose terminations

comprise a length of silica welded to a length of fibre with an index gradient, the microlenses being produced at the end of the lengths of fibres with an index gradient.